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President that the natives have no respect for the American government, which has not kept a war-ship at Apia. The British and German governments both keep war-ships in Samoan waters.

## Commerce and the Cornstalk as Peacemakers.

BY EDWARD ATKINSON.

The greatest achievement in manufacturing is the final acceptance of the service of the bacteria which dwell in nodules attached to leguminous plants, peas, beans and the like, between the stalk and the root. Living there they dissociate the nitrogen of the atmosphere, and, dying, convert it through the plant to the nutrition of the soil, the beast and the man, assuring the complete renovation of the slave-stricken soil of the southland.

The historic event of the year is the recognition of the transfer of the dominion of iron and steel from Europe to the United States, thus conveying to the people of this nation the paramount power in the development of commerce, which has given supremacy to great Britain for more than a century.

The most notably discovery of the year works in two directions. The word to conjure with is "cornstalk." The claims are made, and apparently sustained, for the conversion of dry cornstalks into two useful substances, cornstalk meal freed from cellulose or pith, and dry pith or cellulose freed from cornstalk meal. The first may add to the cattle food of this country a digestible, nutritious food equal to the best of hay and more than equal in quantity to the present hay crop of the United States. Nearly the whole of this product of cornstalks has been previously wasted.

If the claims which are made about the use of cellulose in naval construction are sustained, it is possible, even probable, that all the existing large battleships of the navies of the world are worthless for offense or defense. It is possible, even probable, that the next development will be a steel ram enveloped in cornstalk cellulose, unsinkable and impregnable, before which every existing type of battleship or cruiser must go down, ending naval war and the necessity of coast defence. Nothing more visionary or apparently absurd can be put before your readers, yet such is the promise of the cornstalk.

I submit these facts as the best Christmas greeting that can be presented. They contain the promise of peace, goodwill and plenty. They lead to the reunion of the English-speaking people who have become more and more interdependent, serving each other's needs in the pursuit of commerce, which lives and moves and has its being in the mutual benefit of men and nations.

The science of commerce rests on mutual benefit and requires for its conduct probity, integrity, character and capacity. Its end is constructive; its motto, progress and human welfare.

The science of war may call for the same qualities in the individual, but the conduct of war rests upon lying, cheating and misleading the enemy, spying, ambushing and slaughtering the incredulous, getting advantage by these methods so as to strike an enemy in the back or on the flank in place of meeting face to face.

As surely as the science of war is destruction and

rapine, the science of commerce, construction and progress, so surely will commerce prevail, while war shall cease, either because it has become so destructive on land that none can meet its demands, or so innocuous upon the sea, under the dominion of the cornstalk, as to make it a subject of national derision—*The Boston Globe*.

## Peace Among The Nations.

BY REV. SCOTT F. HERSHEY, PH.D.

Christmas Sermon at the First Presbyterian Church, Boston.

*"For unto us a child is born, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace."* Isa. ix. 6:

He who came from heaven as the Prince of Peace, came as a prince to implant the principles of peace, which are truth and uprightness, integrity and confidence, righteousness and goodwill, justice and love. He came to teach these principles, not as ethical theories, but as practical working rules in the common philosophy of the life of man, of the life of the community, and of the life of the nation. This kingdom of peace, beginning in personal life, widens to affect all the vital interests of the community, and to righteously direct the higher course of the nation; and even then it must remain a kingdom under limitations never designed of God, unless it passes into the vast field where operate the Christian nations, and there preserve the integrity alike of justice and love; that the commercial, educational and religious progress of the race may go on, undisturbed by the hand of strife.

This Prince of Peace came, as told in prophecy, to dwell among men, to open up in the widening horizon of their moral life a vision of humanity as a unit, a brotherhood, and to open out towards that coming unity of the race, held in the bonds of peace, he laid, as highways for men and nations to travel, the paths of good-will and love.

Christ came to call men to repentance; no less, he came to call nations to repentance. He came as a teacher to men, and invites them to learn of him the ways of moral and spiritual prosperity; he came, also, to teach nations, and he invites them to learn of him the ways of national rectitude and international happiness. He found men offending God and sinning against truth and righteousness, and he told them of their inevitable doom. He has the same gospel for nations. Conformity to righteousness invigorates national life and makes it stalwart in all those heroic virtues which extend and elevate national character; while the conspiracy of selfish ambition, or of malice and hatred, will eventually and unalterably sweep nations on to the doom which fell upon Babylon and Rome, which is unmistakably closing about Spain.

The American Republic, the most remarkable product ever brought forth by the union of government and law with liberty and equality, may fairly be called a Christian nation. It was colonized by a devout Christian people from many lands. The voice of prayer has never been dismissed from the councils of the nation. The national conscience is sensitive to the idea of the sovereignty of the Ruler of the Universe, who is Lord over all, and the national heart, which sometimes becomes somewhat asphyxiated by depraving political selfishness, is very responsive to the national faith that the providence of